(b) to (d) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. Powers to plan, sanction, implement and execute individual rural drinking water supply schemes vest with State Governments. The details of rural drinking water supply schemes implemented in the States and the details of habitations covered with these schemes are not maintained at the Government of India level. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States in providing drinking water facilities to rural habitations by rendering financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). National Agenda for Governance envisage drinking water facilities to all rural habitations (including rural habitations of Himachal Pradesh) by 2004. States have been advised to chalk out Action Plan in this regard. Targets of 2003-2004 have been so fixed so as to cover all left out habitations during this year. Coverage Status is being regularly monitored.

Drop in poverty ratio

898. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poverty ratio in rural areas has dropped to nearly half between 1983 and 1999-2000; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the proportion of the rural population living below poverty line estimated at 45.65 per cent has come down to 27.1 per cent in the terminal year of last century?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the estimates of the Planning Commission, the proportion of rural population living below the poverty line in rural areas was 45.6% in 1983 which has come down to 27.1% in 1999-2000.

Irregularities pointed out by CAG in SGSY

899. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General report has detected irregularities in the implementation of the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, between 1999-2002;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the funds released for the programme were being diverted to other projects;

(c) if so, the other discrepancies pointed out by the CAG; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) has detected some irregularities in the implementation of the Swamajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) during the period 1999-2002 in his report No. 3 of 2003. He has also pointed out some instances of diversion of SGSY funds amounting to Rs. 58.39 crore in some States/UTs.

(c) The other discrepancies pointed out by the C&AG are non achievement of BPL families target, delay in disbursement of loan & subsidy by banks, lack of systematic identification of infrastructure needs, deficiency in implementation of Special Projects and under utilisation of the Special Project Funds.

(d) Since the Programmes are implemented by the State Governments, the State Governments concerned are required to furnish Action Taken Notes (ATNs) on the audit paras of the Report. This process has already been started and shortcomings as detected by the C&AG have been communicated to all State Governments concerned.

Proposals under Swajaldhara Scheme from Rajasthan

900. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposals from State Government of Rajasthan for the provision of Drinking water and water for irrigational purposes under the Centrally sponsored 'Swajaldhara Scheme';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the share between the Centre and the State of Rajasthan for this Scheme;